

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 AID-20

SSO-00 /139 W

----- 020215

R 190845Z MAR 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0321

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3707

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: CENTER DISSOLVES GUJARAT ASSEMBLY

FOLLOWING TEL FM BOMBAY 0629 DATED 18 MAR 74
REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

SENT ACTION NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0629

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: CENTER DISSOLVES GUJARAT ASSEMBLY

REF: BOMBAY 0539 AND 0564

SUMMARY. IN FACE CONTINUED WIDESPREAD POPULAR DEMAND FOR
DISSOLUTION, CHARACTERIZED BY MORE VIOLENCE, DEATHS AND
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ACCELERATING DISINTEGRATION STATE ASSEMBLY, CENTER DISSOLVED

GUJARAT ASSEMBLY MARCH 15. STUDENT MOVEMENT WHICH FORCED RESIGNATION CHIMANBHAI PATEL MINISTRY AND ASSEMBLY DISSOLUTION NOW INTENDS TO BEND EFFORTS TOWARD ELIMINATING CORRUPTION HOARDING AND PRICE RISES WHILE REJECTING PARTY LABELS.
END SUMMARY

1. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT MRS GANDHI WAS MERELY BOWING TO THE INEVITABLE IN DISSOLVING THE GUJARAT ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 15. SPIRALLING STUDENT VIOLENCE, ALMOST UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION TO DELHI'S STAND BY PUBLIC AND PRESS SUPPLEMENTED BY IRREVERSIBLE DISINTEGRATION OF CONGRESS (R) DOMINATED ASSEMBLY LEFT HER WITH NO OTHER OPTION. FURTHER DELAY ONLY MEANT ESCALATING VIOLENCE AND POSSIBLE ANARCHY. WHILE MORARJI DESAI'S FAST EXERTED ADDITIONAL PRESSURE TO DISSOLVE ASSEMBLY IT ALSO OFFERED ADDITIONAL AND MORE PALATABLE REASON FOR DISSOLUTION AS WELL AS A POSSIBLE FIRST STEP TOWARD CONGRESS (R) - CONGRESS (I) MERGER GUJARAT. IN OUR VIEW SUCH A MERGER APPEARS BEST OPTION FOR CONGRESS (R) SINCE CONGRESS (O) CURRENTLY STANDS BEST CHANCE WIN NEXT ELECTION IN GUJARAT.

2. ASSEMBLY DISSOLUTION MARKS END SECOND PHASE GUJARAT STUDENT-LED UPRISING BUT IS NOT THE FINAL ACT. FIRST PHASE ENDED WITH FEBRUARY 9 RESIGNATION CHIMANBHAI PATEL MINISTRY. DURING THIRD PHASE NAVNIRMAN YUVAK SAMATI (NYS) LEADERS INTEND TO RETAIN INITIATIVE IN INFLUENCING COURSE OF GUJARATI POLITICS BY CONCENTRATING EFFORTS ON POLITICAL REFORM. STUDENTS WILL EMPHASIZE OPPOSITION TO CORRUPTION HOARDING AND PRICE RISES WHILE MONITORING SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NEXT ASSEMBLY ELECTION WHICH NOT EXPECTED TO BE HELD BEFORE EARLY 1975. NYS INTENDS TO SCREEN CANDIDATES FROM ALL PARTIES LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN TINGED BY DISHONESTY IN THE PAST AND OPPOSE THOSE WHO FAIL TO MEET NYS STANDARDS.

3. COMMENT: NYS UNITY AND OBJECTIVES WILL BE SUBJECT TO GREATER PRESSURES DURING "THIRD" PHASE OF STUDENT MOVEMENT IN GUJARAT OUR VIEW IS THAT ORGANIZATION WILL HOWEVER REMAIN A VIABLE SIGNIFICANT AND NON-PARTISAN FORCE IN GUJARATI POLITICS. NYS PRESIDENT MANISHI JANI HAS SO FAR REFUSED ATTEMPTS BY POLITICIANS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCLUDING "INDEPENDENT" MP P.G. MAVALANKAR AND AICC GENERAL SECRETARY YADAV TO ASSOCIATE NYS WITH POLITICIANS OR POLITICAL PARTIES. ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NEXT GUJARAT ASSEMBLY.

4. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN GUJARAT WILL VERY LIKELY HAVE AN IMPACT OTHER AREAS OF INDIA. STUDENTS LEADERS FROM NEW DELHI, BOMBAY, AND WEST BENGAL HAVE ALREADY VISITED GUJARAT

TO STUDY NYS PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNIQUES FIRSTHAND. THE NYS
PLANS DISSEMINATE "GUIDELINES" ON THESE TOPICS TO STUDENTS
ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER STATES. IMPACT OTHER AREAS, HOWEVER, COULD
VARY WIDELY. POLITICAL INSTABILITY, FOOD SHORTAGES, A RELATIVELY
HIGH DEGREE OF URBANIZATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION AND LITERACY A
LARGELY HOMOGENEOUS POPULATION AND THE GUJARATI AVERSION TO
EXCESSIVE CORRUPTION OFFERED FERTILE GROUNDS FOR THE NYS MOVEMENT
IN GUJARAT. ADDITIONALLY WE ARE TOLD THAT MOST OF NYS LEADERS ARE
TOPFLIGHT STUDENTS FROM MIDDLE-CLASS BACKGROUNDS. WHILE IMPACT
IN OTHER AREAS SHOULD THEREFORE VARY WITH CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES
THREAT OF STUDENT DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM
COMBINED WITH GUJARAT PRECEDENCE THAT STUDENTS
CAN CHANGE SYSTEM COULD APPLY THROUGHOUT INDIA. DEVELOPMENTS
ON FOOD/INFLATION FRONT AND PARTICULARLY IN FOOD SHORTAGE
AREAS COULD DOVETAIL WITH SUCH STUDENT ASSERTIVENESS IN DETERMINING
WHETHER INDIA WILL EXPERIENCE GUJARAT TYPE UPHEAVALS DURING WHAT
APPEAR TO BE DIFFICULT MONTHS WHICH LIE AHEAD.
BANE UNQUOTE
MOYNIHAN

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